has reported that there is no large scale illegal felling of trees in the Rajaji National Park However, some cases of illegal tree felling are detected from time to time and suitable action is taken in such cases under law.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Prices of Foodgrains

2698. SHRI P.C. THOMAS
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have increaesd the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his attention has been invited to the newsitem captioned "Prices of wheat, by-products may soar under revamped PDS", appearing in 'The Financial Express' New Delhi, dated November 10, 1996;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(f) the steps being taken to ensure that the hike in Central Issue Prices (CIPs) for PDS foodgrains does not cause rise in the open market prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) (a) No, Sir. The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have not been increased after 1.2.1994.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The rise in open market prices of foodgrains depends on market demands, availability of foodgrains in the market and consumer preferences. Hence, an increase in CIP of foodgrains meant for PDS/RPDS cannot completely and directly relate with the rise in open market prices of foodgrains.

A constant watch is kept on the production levels and stocks of foodgrains and efforts are made to have sufficient stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains. Open sale of wheat and rice is undertaken to curb the inflationary trend in the market. The Govt., has, however, not yet taken a final dicision on the proposal for streamlining the PDS.

[Translation]

Welfare Projects

2699. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some welfare projects of Gujarat State particularly relating to tribal and backward areas are lying pending or under consideration with the Union Government for the sanction of funds at present;

(b) if so, the project-wise details thereof and the date from which these projects are lying pending with the Union Government;

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any;

(d) the project wise estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). No tribal welfare projects from the Government of Gujarat are pending with the Ministry of Welfare. However, information from other Ministries/Departments is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

[English]

Guidelines to SPCBs

2700. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have directed State Pollution Control Boards to take punitive action against the industrial units flouting environmental norms and effectively enforce the pollution control measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several State Governments are not following the directives of the Central Government and have failed to take any effective measures; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government if the State Governments failed to take any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) (a) to (d) No specific directions were issued by the Central Government to the State Pollution Control Boards to take punitive action against the industrial units violating environmental norms. However, the Central and State Pollution Control Boards are actively monitoring the progress of implementation of installation of adequate pollution control facilities in 1551 units identified as highly polluting industries under the 17 categories. Out of 1551 units identified among the 17 categories for pollution control, 1259 units have provided requisite pollution control facilities and 112